



May 11, 2020

Ms. Harrington:

As business owners begin planning to re-open, I'd like to offer Olmsted County Public Health as a partner to the Chamber and local business in this effort. It will take the entire community working together to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in our workplaces, homes and medical systems. When the governor's stay at home order is relaxed, it is likely that increased contact between our residents will challenge all of us to ensure we keep both our workplaces and residents as safe as possible. Olmsted County will work together with businesses on infection prevention strategies to lessen risk for staff and their customers. While more specific guidance can be made available as this takes shape, right now we'd encourage business owners to begin considering a few strategies as they plan to re-open:

- Encourage staff to continue working from home whenever feasible
- Consider symptom screening for staff before or on arrival at work; ensure that sick staff are not in the workplace
- Create a workplace environment that allows for physical distancing, at least six feet between staff and between staff and customers wherever possible
- Disinfect any surfaces that people touch rigorously and routinely
- Consider a focus on outdoor seating for patrons when possible and appropriate
- Consider physical barriers such as plexiglass and the use of cloth masks and as appropriate for employees when six-foot distancing cannot be achieved
- Encourage staff to practice good hygiene including routine handwashing
- Make your efforts to reduce risk highly visible to both staff and customers
- Consider flexibility in business hours or other operations that support the above strategies

Olmsted County Public Health plans to closely monitor ongoing risk in the community. It will take an active partnership with our business community to reduce risk in the community and in the workplace.

Working together we can create a roadmap that works for all of us together in Olmsted County. Thank you for your support and partnership.

Graham Briggs, MS
Director, Olmsted County Public Health Services